radical democracy

a digital inventory of transformational ideas, documents, quotes and conversations

radical democracy:
an inventory of transformational ideas, documents, quotes and conversations.

version 1.0

eighteen original interviews with radicals from the early 1960s through today. oh, yes.

an archive of radical statements, guides, manifestos, and other documents

share memes, interviews, etc... on Facebook.

return to docs, interviews, or main menu

click or touch words, images, etc... for links to web content.

produced by david olson

radical democracy is published under a creative commons share and share alike license. please share and remix widely. more information here.

www.radicaldemocracy.net

Thanks to the radical activists, organizers, teachers, dreamers and thinkers who have inspired us and created radical change when it was needed most, especially those interviewed for this project. More interviews coming soon.

Special thanks also to Jon Moodie, Jana Martin, and Hava Gurevich for their contribution to this project.

Very special thanks to Alan Haber for his help and inspiration.

This project is available free of charge. Please share widely. Gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted and will help fund future projects.

Gratitude.

#radicaldemocracy

Sit down and read.

Educate yourself for the coming conflicts.

Mary Harris “Mother” Jones
Organizer/Hell-raiser
1837-1930

radicaldemocracy.net

interviews

i

documents

d

more

forward

Poverty and debt. Racism, sexism and bigotry. Environmental catastrophe. Endless war for profit.

From protests in the streets to mainstream calls for political revolution, people are losing faith in our basic social, political and economic systems and institutions.

Nationalism and fraudulent leaders wont save us any more than continuing the neoliberal policies and corrupt politics that got us here. Only we can save ourselves.

Rediscovering our own agency, we are collectively imagining what a truly free and democratic society would look like—and organizing to make that vision real through fundamental, systemic, radical change.

Join us.

#radicaldemocracy

The history of the past is but one long struggle upward to equality.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
suffragist/abolitionist
/social activist
1815-1902

radicaldemocracy.net

THE REVOLUTION WILL BE PEACEFUL

In order for us as poor and oppressed people to become part of a society that is meaningful, the system under which we now exist has to be radically changed. This means that we are going to have to learn to think in radical terms.

I use the term radical in its original meaning--getting down to and understanding the root cause. It means facing a system that does not lend itself to your needs and devising means by which you change that system.

Ella Baker 1963
Freedom Movement Organizer
SCLC/SNCC

#radicaldemocracy

One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change.

Every society has its protectors of the status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions.

But today our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.

MLK
1967

#staywoke

radicaldemocracy.net

...radical?

and how!

The change we need requires more than simply switching parties or elected officials, tweaking policy, or modest, incremental reform.

The political, social, and economic institutions and systems that define our society are arbitrary, and should work for the common good. Those that do not, need to be radically reformed or dismantled and replaced.

The goal of our healthcare system should be to provide healthcare, not to make a profit.

The goal of our criminal justice system should be community safety, not to generate revenue and marginalize minorities.

The goal of our press should be to inform the people, not to support a system that keeps most people in debt and without political power.

And so on.

radicaldemocracy.net

and now!

The existing political and economic order is crashing, while creating environmental catastrophe and crushing economic inequality for which it has no solutions.

Our political parties give the appearance of facilitating citizen participation in a functioning, democratic, process... while in fact serving as conduits for corporate money and influence, supporting the status quo and minimizing the impact of the people's will.

The result is a thoroughly corrupt policital system that serves the few at the expense of the many.

It's time to reject a politics rigged to benefit the 1%, and to reimagine government as a collaborative, creative, decision making process, with all voices heard and all people participating.

radicaldemocracy.net

Both wings of the establishment, however, agree on the basic framework of American society:

Economic power should be kept by the wealthy, and the government's first priortiy is to maintain the capitalist system.

George Lakey
Toward a Living Revolution
1970

#radicaldemocracy

2016 PRES. ELECTION
PHILLY / DNC

#RADICALDEMOCRACY

The changes we need are systemic changes, not just personnel changes.

There's absurdity piled upon absurdity here: corporatons are not people. Money is not speech. Big-time money is power, not speech.

John Raines
Freedom Rider/Professor of Theology Temple University, retired/Peace Activist
The Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI helped expose COINTELPRO

#radicaldemocracy

The time has come for us to reimagine everything.

We have to reimagine work
and go away from labor.

We have to reimagine revolution
and get beyond protest.

We have to think not only about
change in our institutions,
but changes in ourselves.

Grace Lee Boggs
Teacher/Revolutionary
1915-2015

#radicaldem

Real change never comes from the top down—only from the bottom up.

By definition, those at the top are benefiting from the current system and do not want it changed.

radicaldemocracy.net

The ruling class is not restrained by scruples — only by their estimation of the political consequences of their actions.

Prairie Fire: The Politics of Revolutionary Anti-Imperialsm

The Weather Underground,1974

radicaldemocracy.net

What matters are the countless small deeds of unknown people who lay the basis for the significant events that enter history.

Howard Zinn
A People's History of the United States

#radicaldemocracy

I MARCH FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL. WOW, WHAT A RADICAL IDEA.

SORRY... DID MY CIVIL RIGHTS GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR BIGOTRY?

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

frederick douglass
abolitionist/suffragist
orator/writer

radicaldemocracy.net

Will you join a joyful struggle...

for justice?

for peace?

for equality?

for love?

radicaldemocracy.net

...for water?

#standingrock
#honortreatyrights

#waterislife
radicaldemocracy.net

CHRISTIANS against THE MUSLIM BAN
...for each other?
WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS

POLICE
...for your life?
#blacklivesmatter
radicaldemocracy.net

All those who are affected by social institutions must have a share in producing and managing them.

A democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint community experience.

John Dewey
philosopher/educator
1859-1952

radicaldemocracy.net

demos/ kratos

demos: by or belonging to the people

kratos: to rule or make decisions

democracy: rule by the people

radicaldemocracy.net

But who are the people, and how do they rule?

The more inclusive the definition of "the people" and the greater their participation in making the decisions that affect their lives, the more democratic a society is.

In the US we have focused mostly on the "who," by expanding the right to vote. But we must also expand *how* we participate, beyond merely voting, and towards a more horizontal and participatory democracy. Voting every few years for candidates pre-screened and sponsored by the elite is a very enemic form of democracy.

In a Republic, the power resides in the people. We temporarily invest the authority to excercise that power in individuals who agree to represent our interests, and to respect and protect certain rights–including transparent and free elections, freedom of the press and of assembly, and access to common resources.

This agreement is known as the social contract, and is referenced as "the consent of the governed" in the Declaration of Independence.

When politicians betray the public trust and fail to honor the social contract, or the system they operate in becomes fundamentally corrupt, the people may withdraw support and replace them.

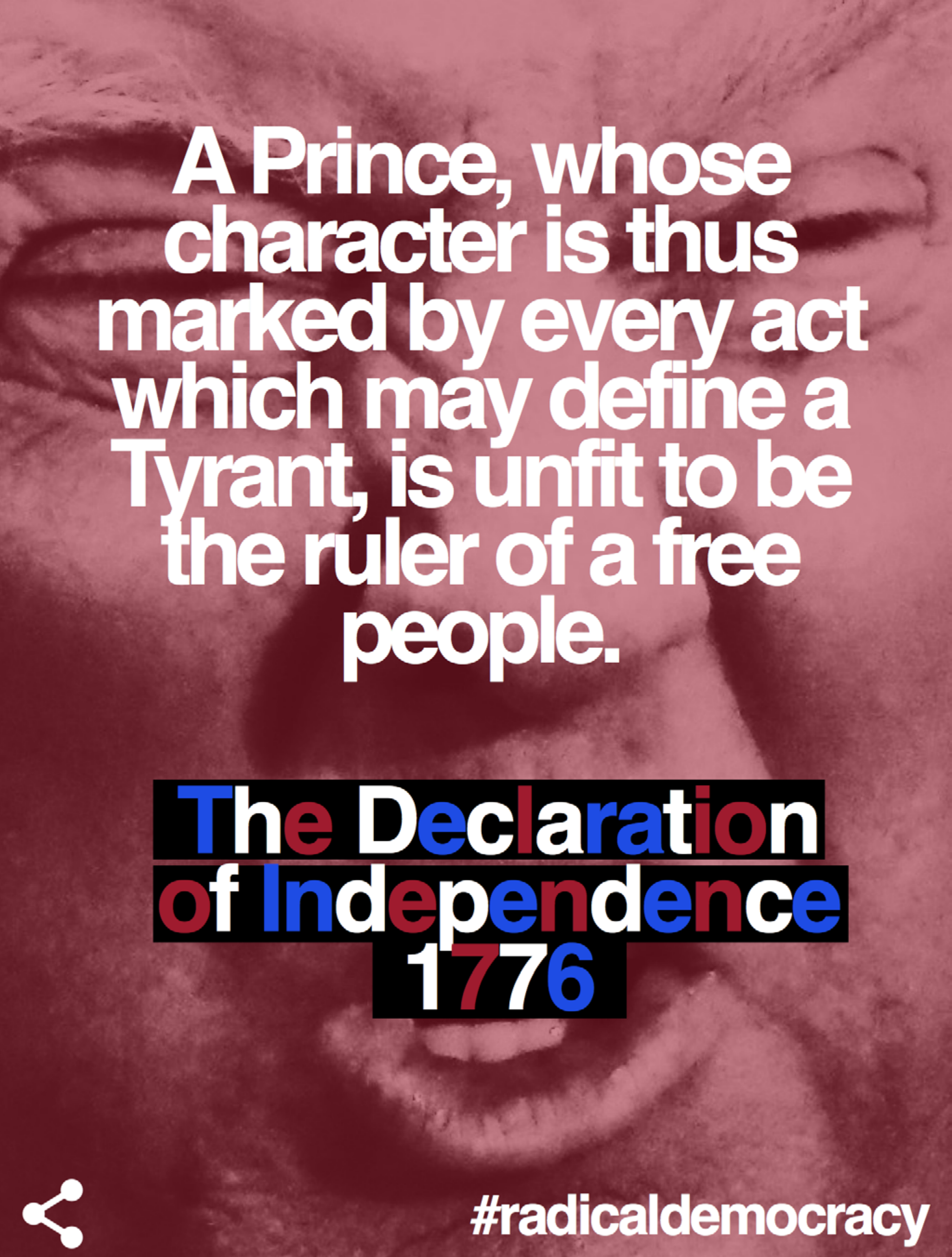
Power rests with the people.

radicaldemocracy.net

radicaldemocracy.net

When a politician says that what you want is "politically unrealistic," what they really mean is that it offends ruling class ideology.

#radicaldemocracy


A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.
The Declaration of Independence 1776
#radicaldemocracy

The future has a past.

radicaldemocracy.net

America was begun by its radicals. America was built by its radicals. The hope and future of America lies with its radicals.

Saul Alinsky
Rules for Radicals
1971

radicaldemocracy.net

As one people, united, we acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power.

We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice, and oppression over equality, run our governments.

Join us and let your voices be heard!

Declaration from the
Occupation
of New York City, 2011
#occupywallst
radicaldemocracy.net

#radicaldemocracy

It’s got to be more fun to be in the revolution than out of it.

Jerry Rubin
1970

It's absolutely imperative that anybody within the movement understands its historical context.

I argue that **the Movement for Black Lives is essentially the neo-Civil Rights Movement**, and is building upon that legacy. It's imperative for people to understand the historical, social, economic, and political context of our movement in relation to previous movements.

Our movements are not different. They are only separated by time and space.

Dominique Scott/ United Students Against Sweatshops, Movement for Black Lives.

#blacklivesmatter
#radicaldemocracy

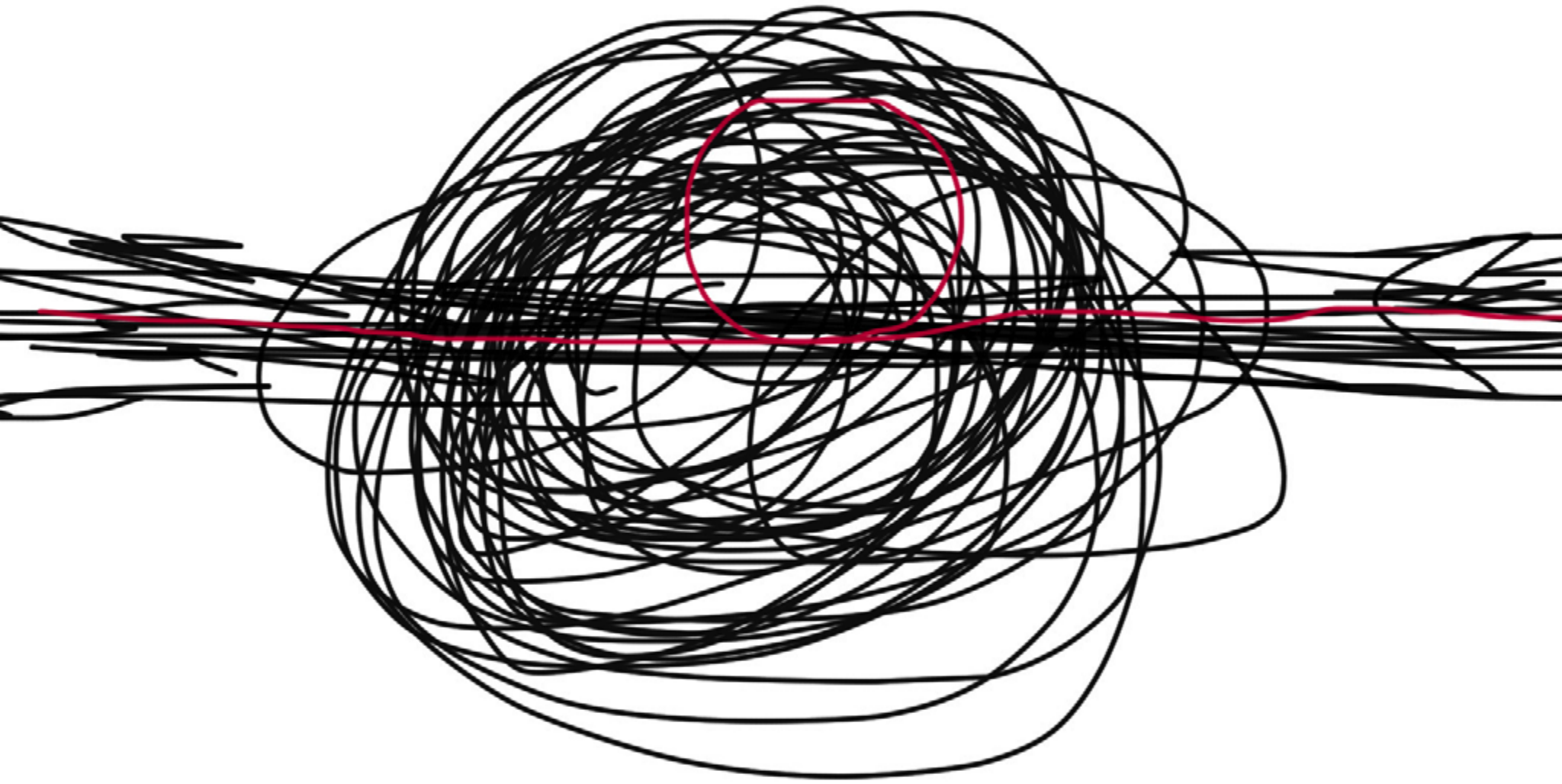
The future has a past.

It's called the present.

What we do today creates our tomorrow.

radicaldemocracy.net

So, what sort of future shall we make together?



radicaldemocracy.net

We would replace power
rooted in possession,
privilege, or circumstance
by power and uniqueness
rooted in love,
reflectiveness, reason
and creativity.

The Port Huron Statement
1962

#radicaldemocracy

We are going to stand up for social justice, for racial equality, for women to have their whole damn dollar, for our babies to be educated.

In order for us to do this, we have to commit ourselves to having the courage and chutzpa to speak truth to power, to organize, to stay together, to put out our list of demands, and not to relent one iota on the things that we believe in.

Nina Turner
activist/organizer
former ohio state senator
people's summit, 2016

#radicaldemocracy

We need a fundamental shift in how we think, which I would call a revolution.

It has to be a shift in consciousness, and that starts bottom-up.

We need to declare our values. We need to say, "This is what we need, and this is what we care about. I'm going to vote for my values, I'm going to get involved, and I'm going to fight."

moumita ahmed/cofounder,
millennials for bernie sanders
/millennials for revolution
2017

#radicaldemocracy

JUSTICE

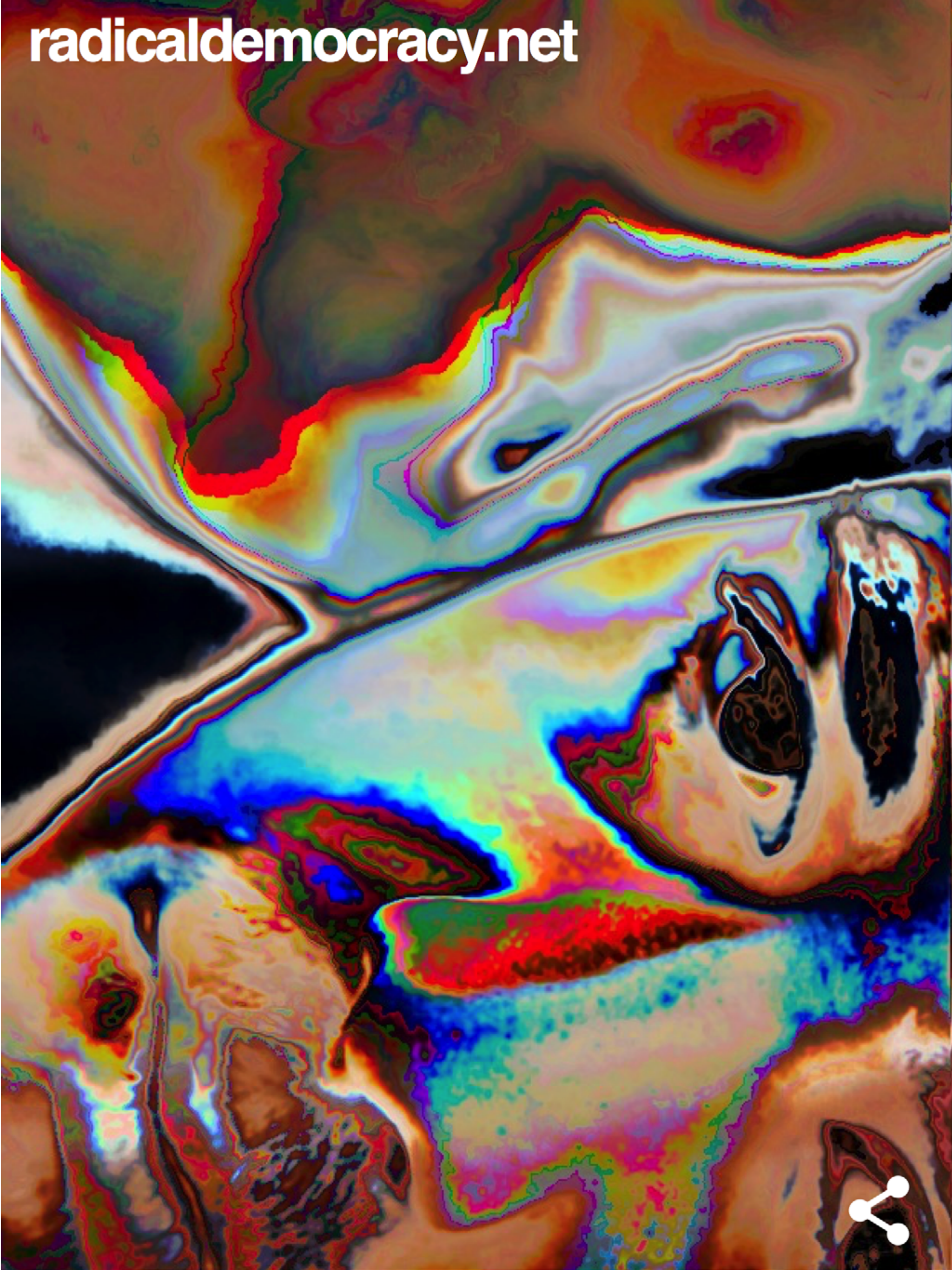
ART BY DIGNIDADREBELDE.COM

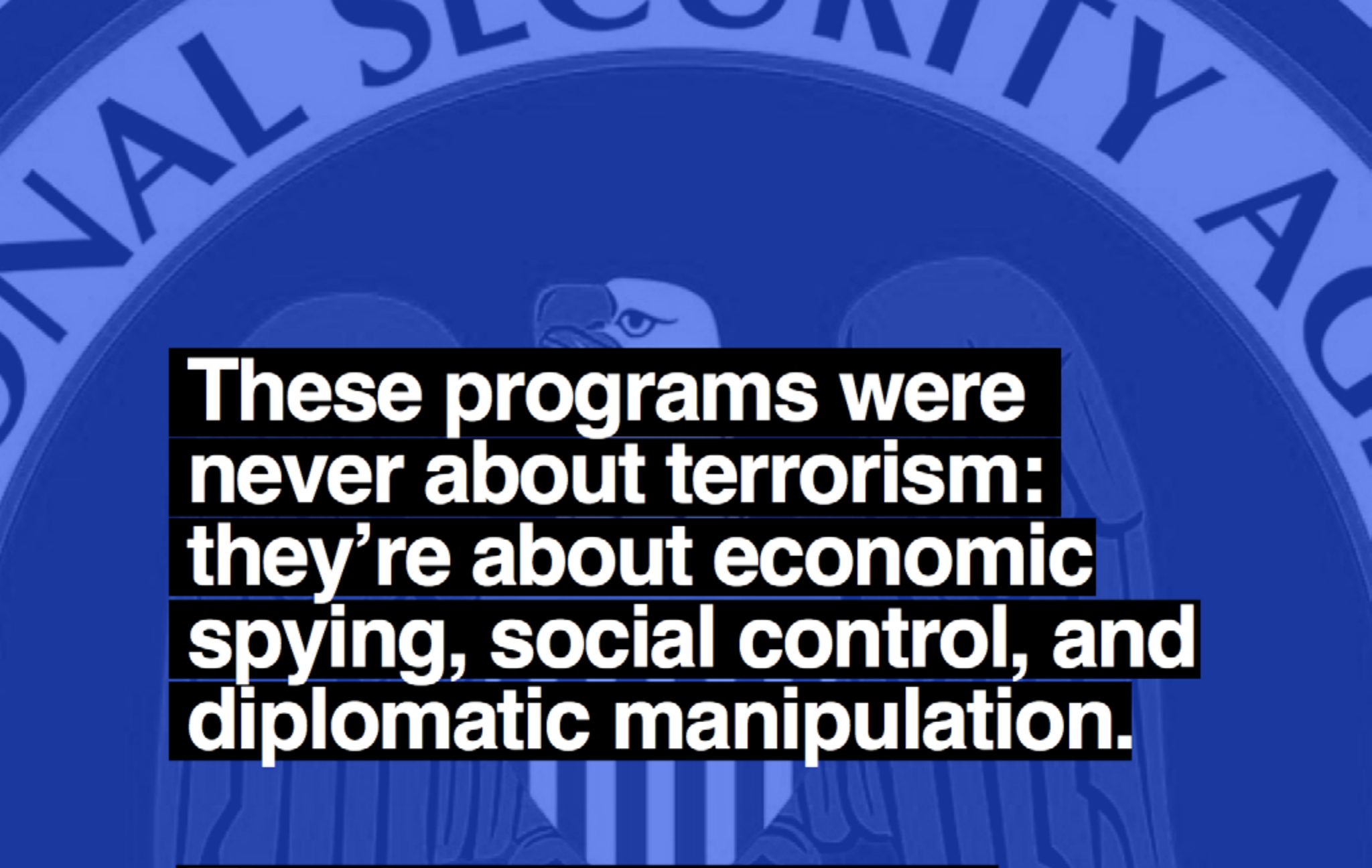
Information is power. But like all power, there are those who want to keep it for themselves.

Guerilla Open Access Manifesto
Aaron Swratz, 2008

#radicaldemocracy

radicaldemocracy.net




These programs were never about terrorism: they're about economic spying, social control, and diplomatic manipulation.
They're about power.
Edward Snowden
US Intelligence Whistleblower
#radicaldemocracy

=-=-=-

The internet is not only about the sharing of ideas and information.

It's about democratic means of organization. It's about decentralizing power.

That's why nearly every government and corporation on the planet is against net neutrality.

And why we must fight for it.

#radicaldemocracy

There is no such thing
as a single-issue struggle
because we do not live
single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde
writer/poet/
feminist/activist

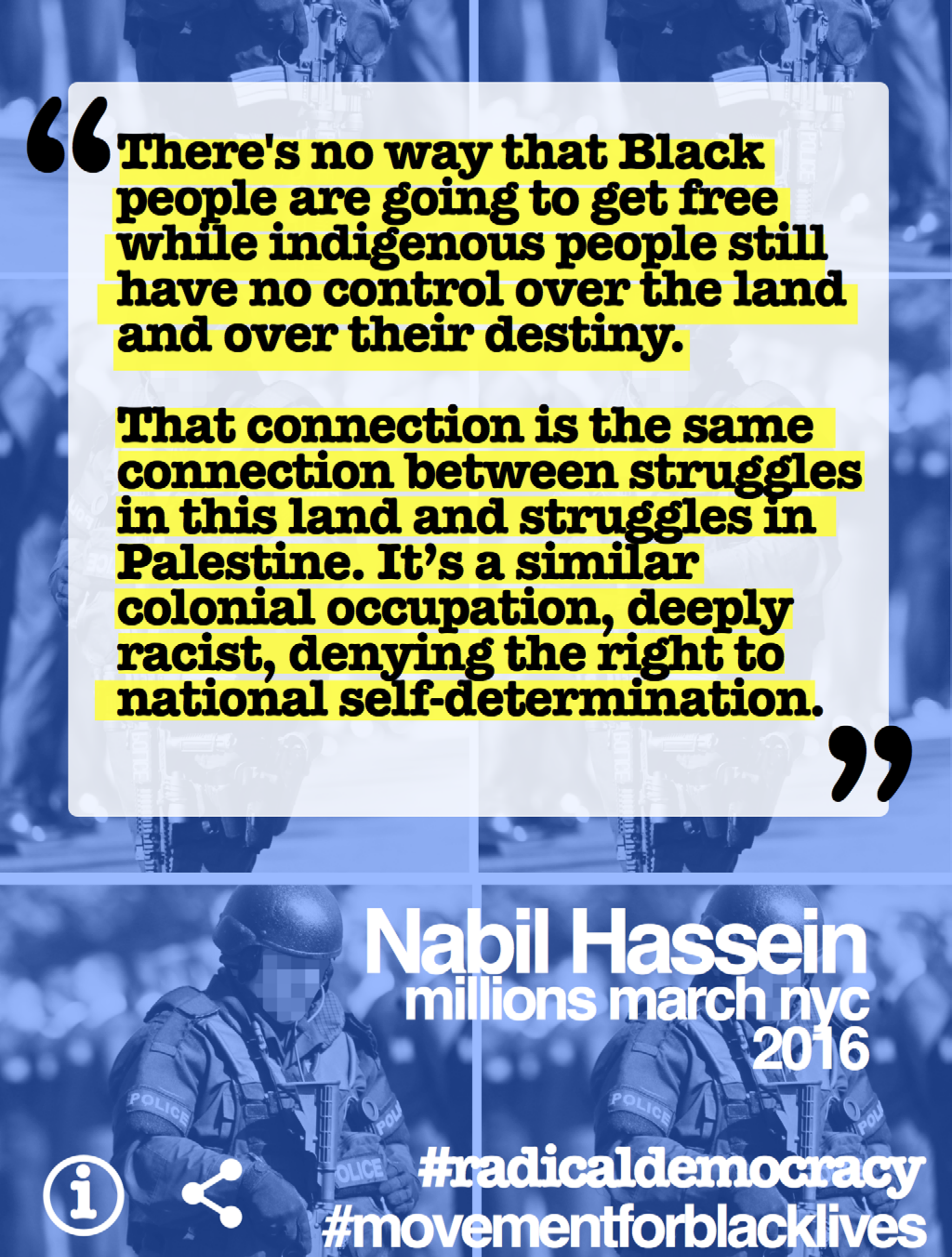
radicaldemocracy.net

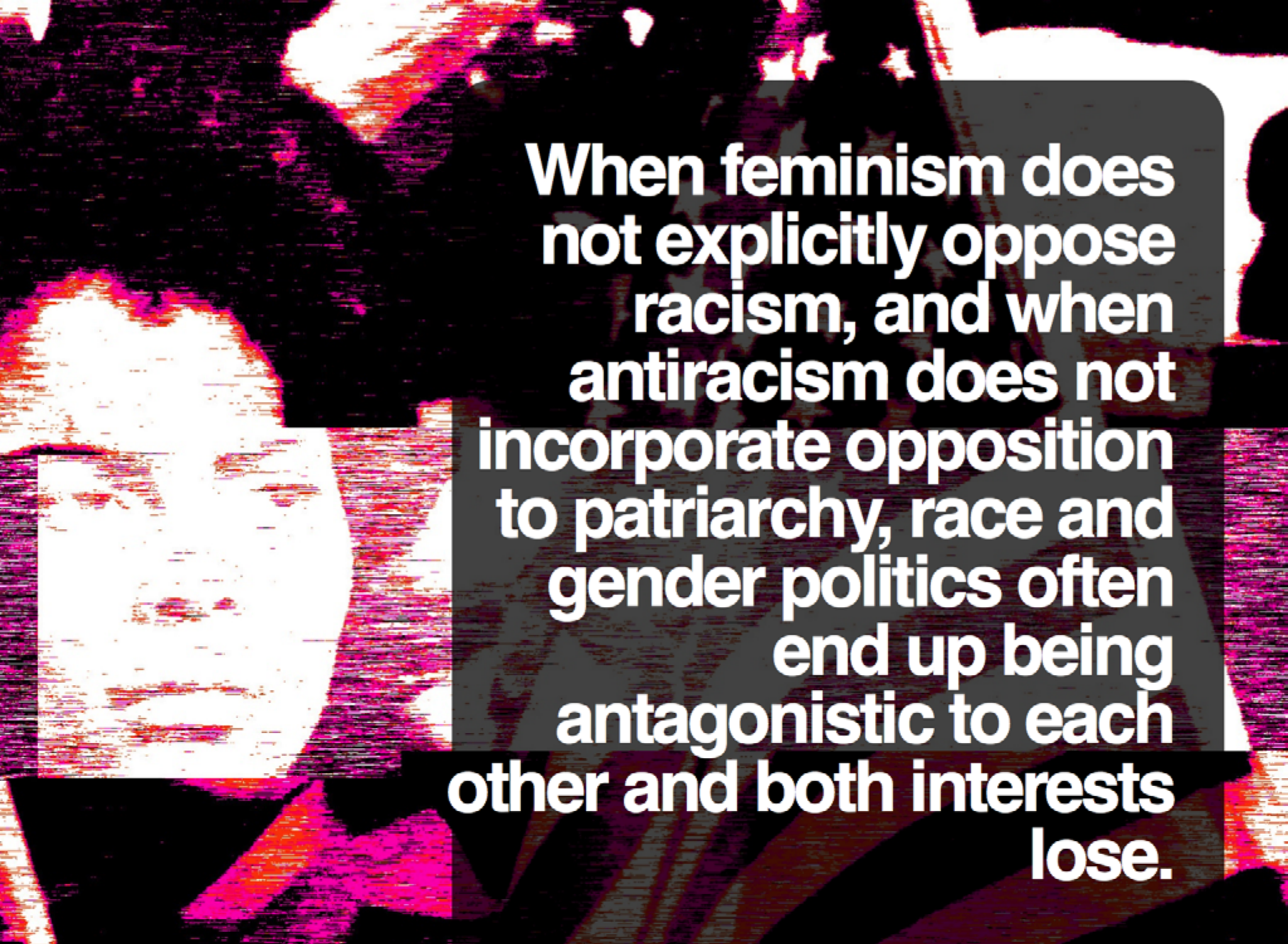
When we stand together, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish.

Senator Bernie Sanders
2016

#radicaldemocracy

#movementofmovements

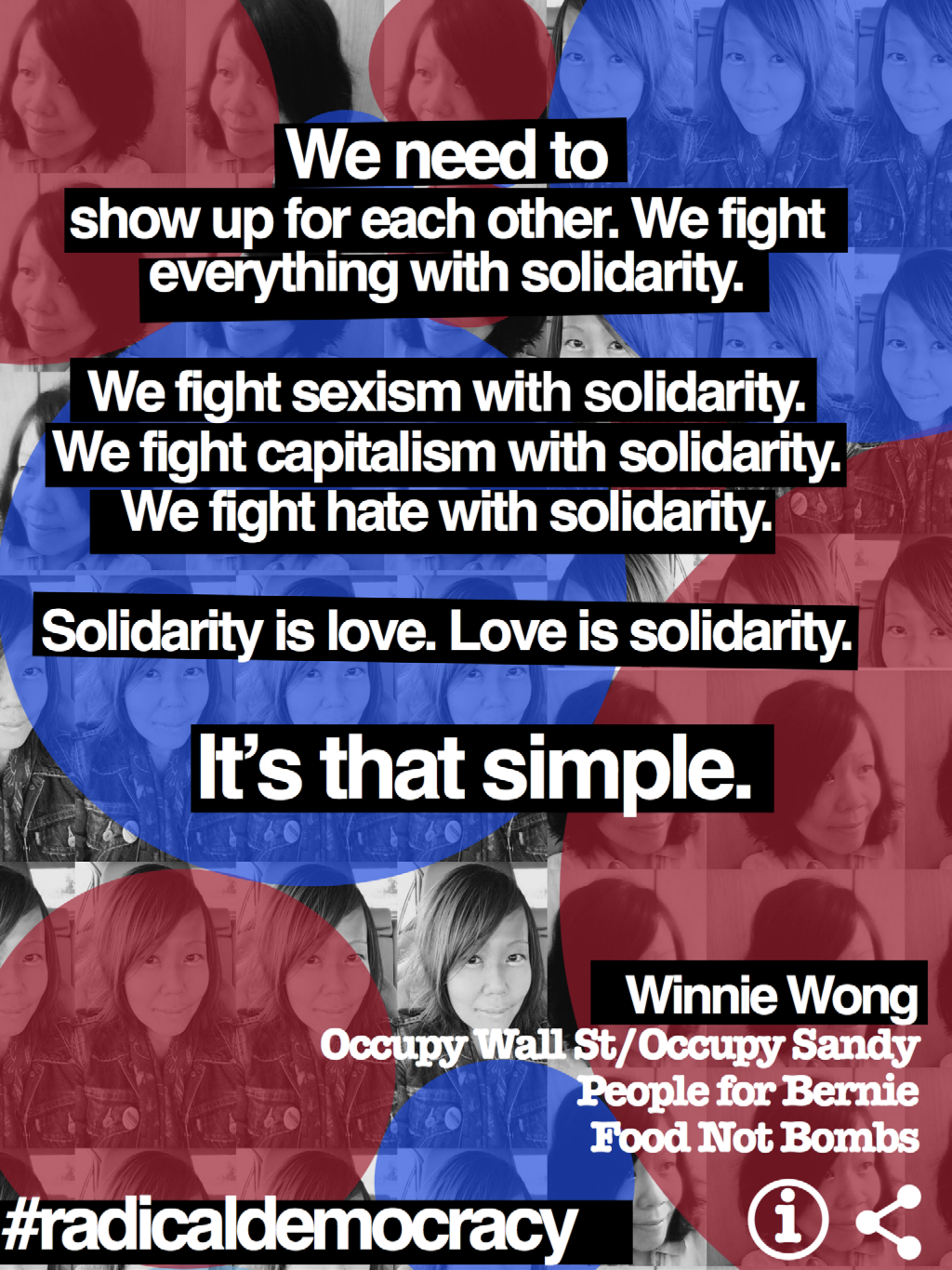

“There's no way that Black people are going to get free while indigenous people still have no control over the land and over their destiny.
That connection is the same connection between struggles in this land and struggles in Palestine. It’s a similar colonial occupation, deeply racist, denying the right to national self-determination.”
Nabil Hassein
millions march nyc
2016
#radicaldemocracy
#movementforblacklives


When feminism does not explicitly oppose racism, and when antiracism does not incorporate opposition to patriarchy, race and gender politics often end up being antagonistic to each other and both interests lose.
Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw
Civil Rights & Intersectionality Advocate/ Professor, UCLA School of Law/Columbia Law School
#radicaldemocracy

The big organizing model that can fuel revolutions believes that communities are filled with talented and intelligent people who understand what is broken and, when given material and strategic resources, can wrest power from elites and make lasting change.

Rules for Revolutionaries:
How Big Organizing Can Change Everything
Becky Bond and Zack Exley

#radicaldemocracy


We need to
show up for each other. We fight
everything with solidarity.
We fight sexism with solidarity.
We fight capitalism with solidarity.
We fight hate with solidarity.
Solidarity is love. Love is solidarity.
It's that simple.
Winnie Wong
Occupy Wall St/Occupy Sandy
People for Bernie
Food Not Bombs
#radicaldemocracy

What We Want Now!

We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community.

We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent American society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society.

We want an immediate end to POLICE BRUTALITY and MURDER of Black people.

Black Panther Party
10 Point Program, 1966

#blacklivesmatter #radicaldemocracy

There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem.
Eldridge Cleaver
black panther party
1968
#radicaldemocracy

Who governs?
Who really rules?

The central point that emerges from our research is that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence.

Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens
Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page
Political Prespectives,2014

radicaldemocracy.net

Nothing terrifies those running America more than the danger of true democracy breaking out.

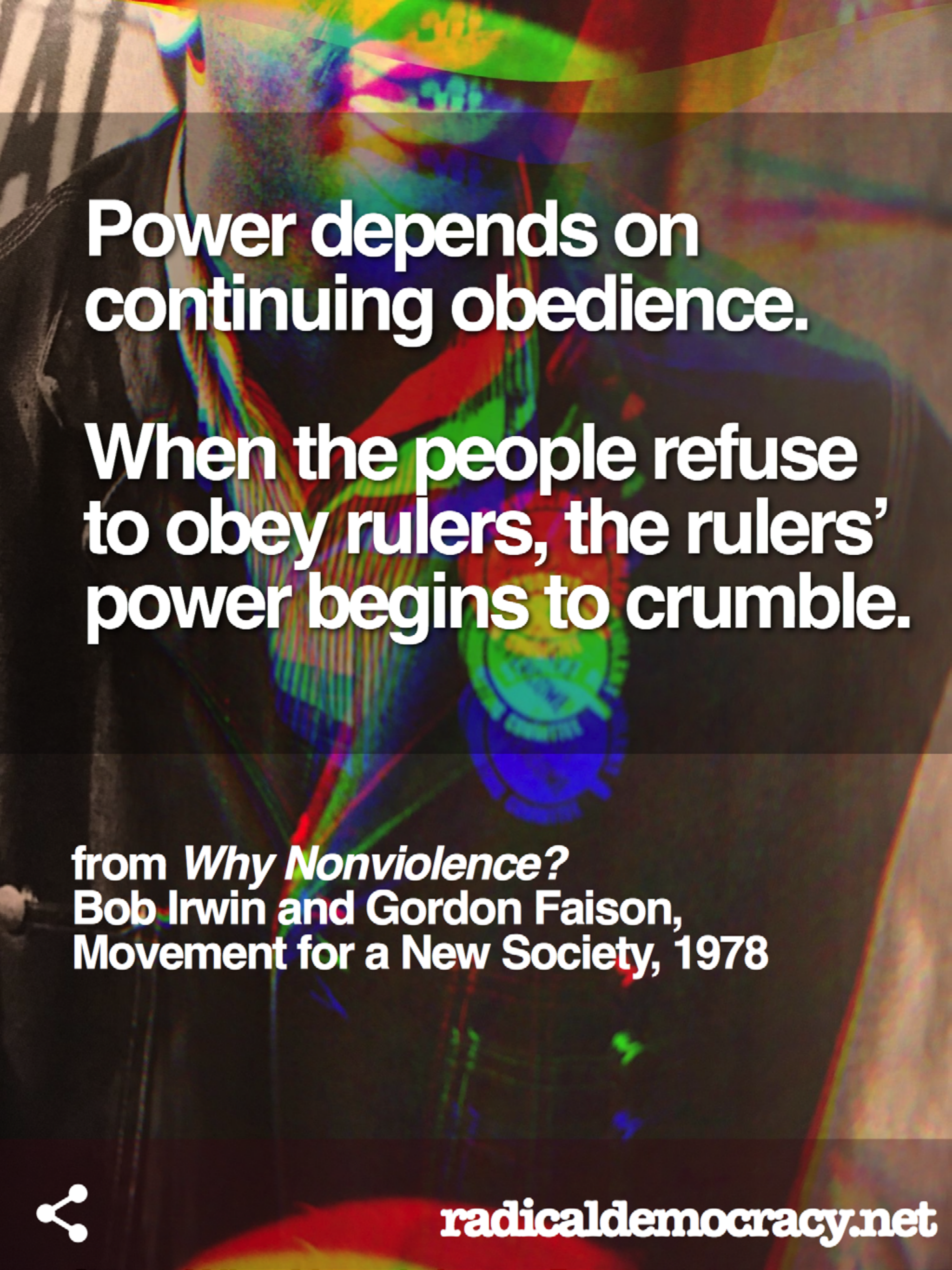
David Graeber
Prof. of Anthropology,
London School of Economics
Anarchist
Occupy Wall Street

#radicaldemocracy

What comes to pass does so not so much because a few people want it to happen, as because the mass of citizens abdicate their responsibility and let things be.

antonio gramsci
neo-marxist
political theorist
1891-1937

#radicaldemocracy


Power depends on continuing obedience.
When the people refuse to obey rulers, the rulers' power begins to crumble.
from *Why Nonviolence?*
Bob Irwin and Gordon Faison,
Movement for a New Society, 1978
radicaldemocracy.net

I am opposing a social order in which it is possible for one man who does absolutely nothing that is useful to amass a fortune of hundreds of millions of dollars, while millions of men and women who work all the days of their lives secure barely enough for a wretched existence.

Eugene Debs
Co-founder,
Industrial Workers of the World
5 time Presidential candidate,
US Socialist Party

#radicaldemocracy

Our society is defined by a "system-of-systems" — social, political, and economic — whose main function is to transfer more wealth and power to those who already have it.

#radicaldemocracy

Banks, financial regulators and tax authorities have failed. Hopelessly ineffecient and backwards courts have failed. The media has failed. The legal profession has failed.

The collective impact of these failures has been a complete erosion of ethical standards, ultimately leading to a novel system we still call capitalism, but which is tantamount fo economic slavery.

In this system–our system–the slaves are unaware both of their status and of their masters, who exist in a world apart where the intangible shackles are carefully hidden amongst reams of legalese.

Anonymous Leaker of
the Panama Papers
The Revolution Will Be Digitized
2016

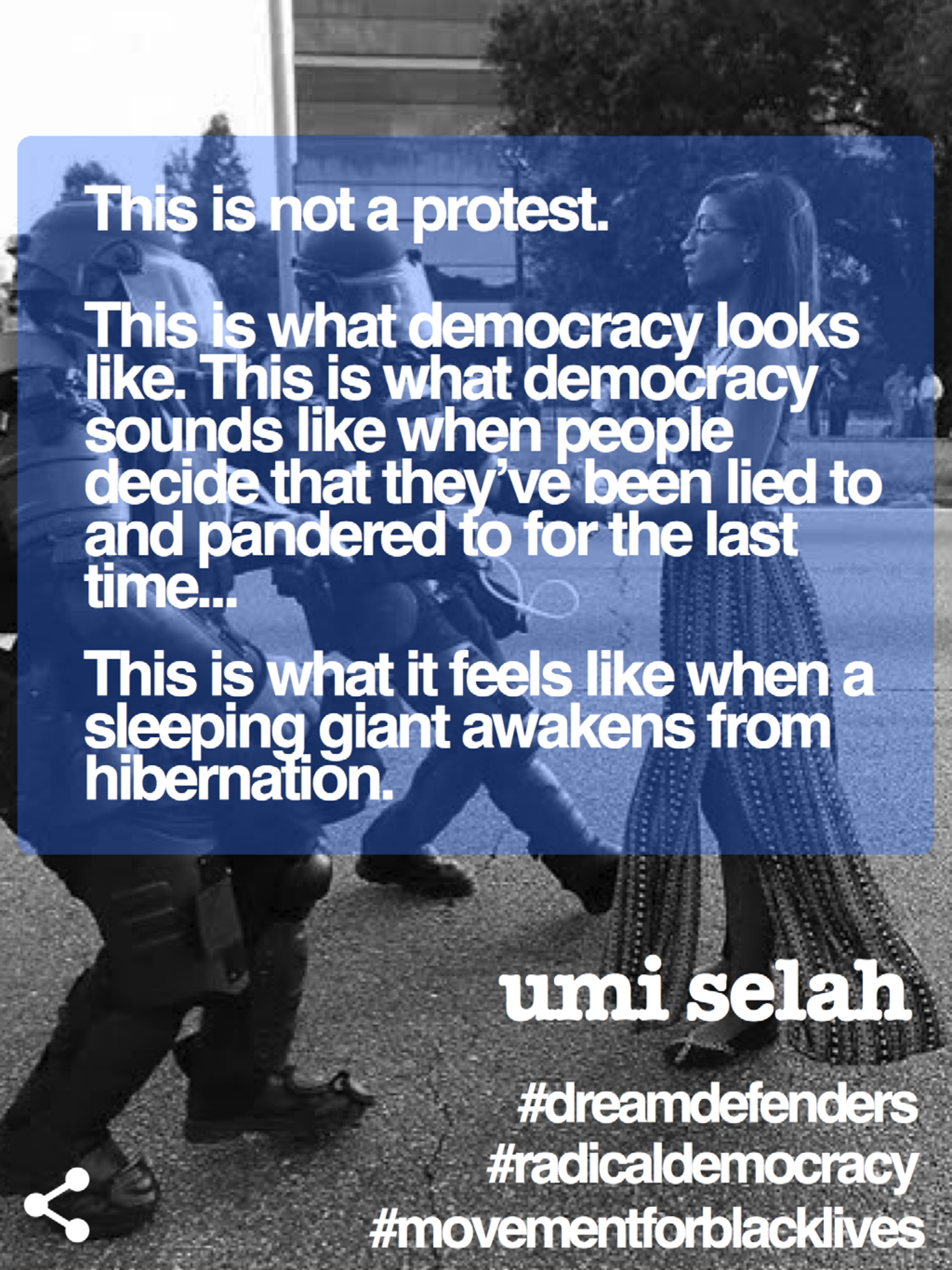
#radicaldemocracy

A horizontal, decentralized, **movement-of-movements** is organically growing, connecting, and gaining strength.

We are confronting and dismantling the system-of-systems and returning the power to the people, where it belongs.

All power to all the people.

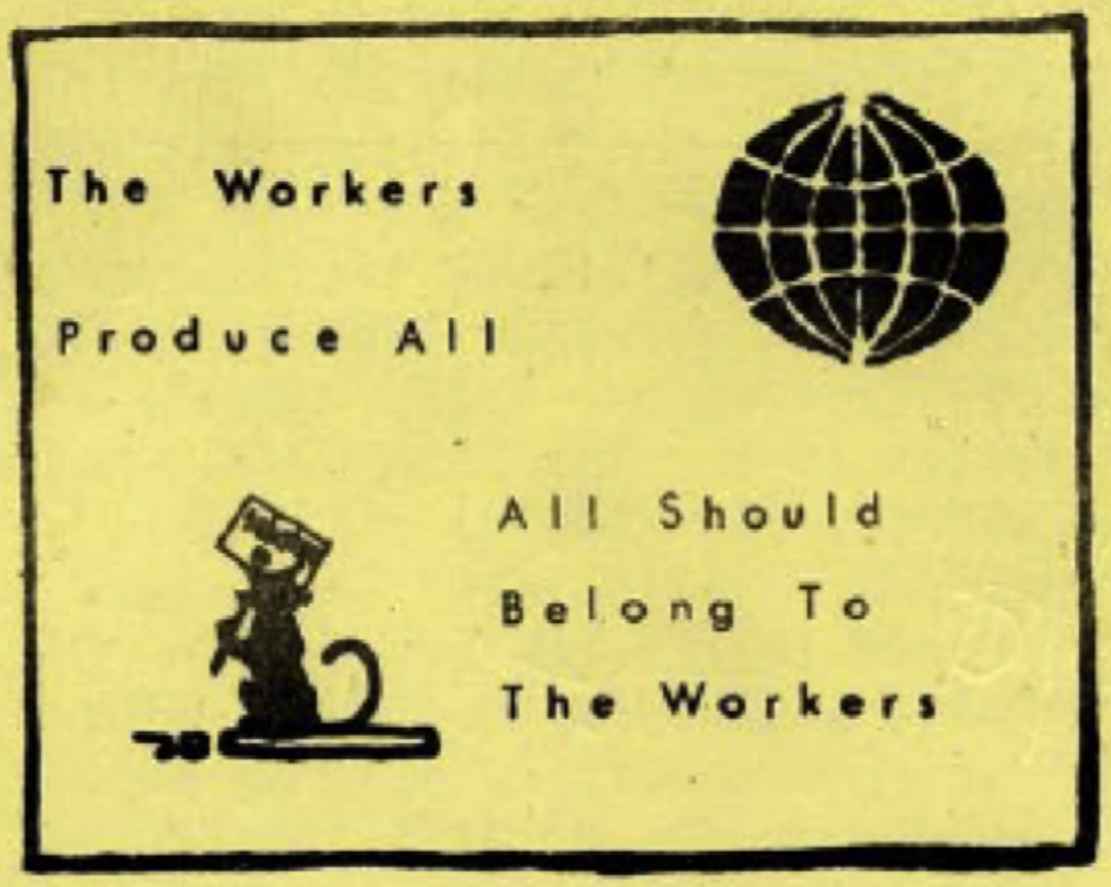
#radicaldemocracy


This is not a protest.
This is what democracy looks like. This is what democracy sounds like when people decide that they've been lied to and pandered to for the last time...
This is what it feels like when a sleeping giant awakens from hibernation.
umi selah
#dreamdefenders
#radicaldemocracy
#movementforblacklives

RADICAL AMERICA

September - October. 1967 Vol. 1 No. 2

50¢



An SDS Journal of the History of American Radicalism

Black humanity and dignity requires Black political will and power. Despite constant exploitation and perpetual oppression, Black people have bravely and brilliantly been the driving force pushing the U.S. towards the ideals it articulates but has never achieved.

In recent years we have taken to the streets, launched massive campaigns, and impacted elections, but our elected leaders have failed to address the legitimate demands of our Movement.

We can no longer wait.

A Vision for Black Lives:
Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom, and Justice
2016

#blacklivesmatter
#radicaldemocracy

SOLIDARITY

ART BY DIGNIDADREBELDE.COM

Our goal is to build a mass movement of young people to push for change both at the polls and in the streets. I think with that sustained pressure, we can make the transition from campaign to movement, and build something that could really affect the power structure. That's the goal.

We need to get people to abandon the "every four years" thinking—we need to do much more than vote. This country isn't going to change just because you elect Hillary, or if the House is Democratic or Republican. That's not going to change the system.

People need to realize the strength that they have collectively, and also by themselves. We have to, because there's so much urgency. If we don't, who else is going to step up?

I say this is our moment.

david ian robin/cofounder,
millennials for revolution
2016

#radicaldemocracy

When we see the environmental movement linked up with the undocumented and unafraid movement, linked up with Black Lives Matter, linked up with the peace movement and the abolitionist movement, at that point we can imagine a massive social movement that will move history forward.

bill ayers, organizer
weather underground

#radicaldemocracy
#movementofmovements

The most **critical** thing is that we **coordinate** with each other, be **democratic** with each other, learn from each other, and ultimately provide **opportunities** for **ordinary people** to fight for themselves and for their **community**.

Maria Svart/nat'l director
Democratic Socialists of America

#radicaldemocracy

Democratic radicalism is renewing itself around the basically moral proposition:

People should have the opportunity to participate in shaping the decisions and the conditions of economic, political and cultural existence which affect their lives and destinies.

Radical Education Project
1966

PROTEST TICKET

OF THE

Radical Democrats

NEITHER GRANT NOR GREELEY

NO PRESIDENT AT ALL

NO MORE KINGS IN DRESSCOAT

ABOLITION OF THE PRESIDENCY

The Source of all Corruption, all Contention, all Party Tyranny and all Anti-Republican Intrigues.

ANNEXATION of the WHITE HOUSE to the CAPITOL

The Executive Power to be Absorbed by the Legislative. The Separation and Balance of Powers an Antiquated Expedient and Pernicious Delusion. Intellect and Will, Will and Action, Resolution and Execution, belong together.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

To be Vindicated and made Efficient by Uniting all Powers in the Hands of its RESPONSIBLE Legislative Agents. The Executive only an Administrative Commission of Congress.

REAL DEMOCRACY

The Only Remedy and Safeguard.

Indianapolis Sentinel Print.

#radicaldemocracy

Nonviolent action, like war, is a means of waging conflict. It requires a willingness to take risks and bear suffering without retaliation.

On the most fundamental level, it is a means by which people discover their social power.

from *Why Nonviolence?*
Bob Irwin and Gordon Faison,
Movement for a New Society
1978

#radicaldemocracy

We identify with all women. We define our best interest as that of the poorest, most brutally exploited woman.

We repudiate all economic, racial, educational or status privileges that divide us from other women. We are determined to recognize and eliminate any prejudices we may hold against other women.

We are committed to achieving internal democracy. We will do whatever is necessary to ensure that every woman in our movement has an equal chance to participate, assume responsibility, and develop her political potential.

We call on all our sisters to unite with us in struggle.

We call on all men to give up their male privileges and support women's liberation in the interest of our humanity and their own.

In fighting for our liberation we will always take the side of the women against their oppressors. We will not ask what is "revolutionary"or "reformist," only what is good for women.

The time for individual skirmishes has passed. This time we are going all the way.

Robin Morgan,
Red Stockings Manifesto
Women's Lib Movement
1970

#radicaldemocracy

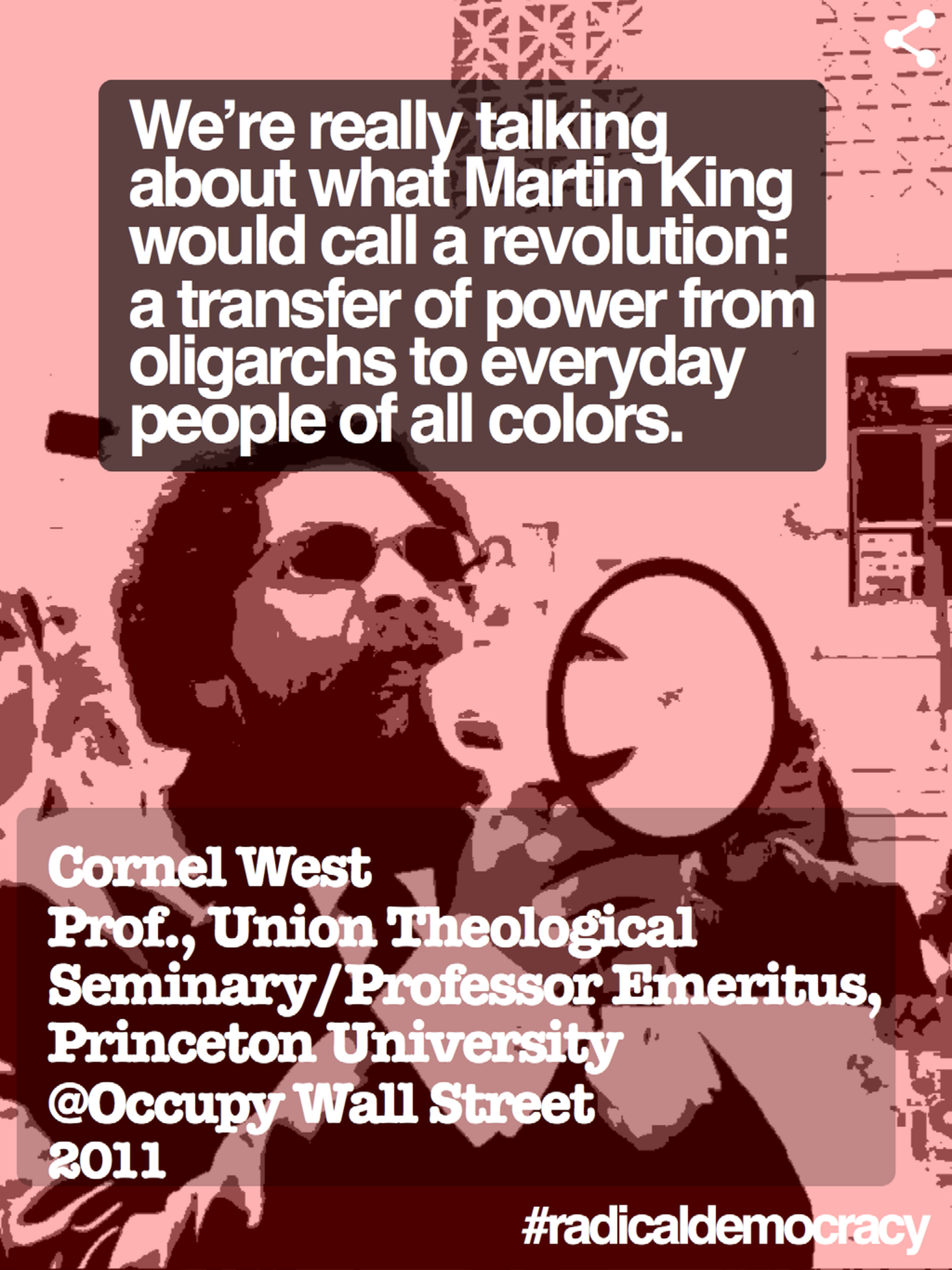
#radicaldemocracy
RIOT GRRRL

Movements erupt mysteriously on the outside margins.

It's the foolish few that bring great hope to history.

Tom Hayden
Activist/Organizer
California State Senator
Students for a Democratic Society

#radicaldemocracy


We're really talking about what Martin King would call a revolution: a transfer of power from oligarchs to everyday people of all colors.
Cornel West
Prof., Union Theological Seminary/Professor Emeritus, Princeton University
@Occupy Wall Street
2011
#radicaldemocracy

Don’t think necessarily of starting a movement.

Do what you think actually needs to be done, set an example, and hope your actions will click with someone else.

Bob Moses
Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee
Mississippi Freedom Summer
The Algebra Project

#radicaldemocracy

The fight for democratic socialism is the fight for **radical democracy,** the freedom of all people to determine all aspects of their lives to the greatest extent possible.

from *Resistance Rising*, Democratic Socialists of America, 2016.

#radicaldemocracy

Let's be real. The economic crisis did not begin with the collapse of the Lehman Brothers in 2008. Indeed, people of color and poor people have been in a state of crisis since the founding of this country, and for indigenous communities, since before the founding of the nation. We have long known that capitalism serves only the interests of a tiny, mostly white, minority.

Black and brown folks have long known that whenever economic troubles 'necessitate' austerity measures and the people are asked to tighten their belts, we are the first to lose our jobs, our children's schools are the first to lose funding, and our bodies are the first to be brutalized and caged.

Only we can speak this truth to power. We must not miss the chance to put the needs of people of color—upon whose backs this country was built—at the forefront of this struggle.

Call Out to People of Color from the
#OWS POC Working Group, 2011

creative commons haldean brown radicaldemocracy.net

If you wish to get out of prison, the first thing you must do is realize that you are in prison.

If you think you are free, you can't escape.

G. I. Gurdjieff
1866-1949

radicaldemocracy.net

We're going to fight racism not with racism, but we're going to fight with solidarity.

We say we're not going to fight capitalism with black capitalism, but we're going to fight it with socialism.

fred hampton

organizer/chairman/illinois black panther party for self-defense

#radicaldemocracy

Actions take place within campaigns, and campaigns take place within social movements. A social movement is made up of different groups, networks, and individuals moving toward similar systemic goals.

Social movements are powerful because their impact is greater than the sum of their parts.

If your actions and campaigns synergize and align with others, it can create exponential change. Smart actions and campaign strategies complement the campaigns other groups are working on and amplify impact.

Remember, no campaign operates in a vacuum, and your work or actions will impact and be impacted by the work of many others.

Action Strategy Guide

The Ruckus Society

#radicaldemocracy

War is, of course, the health of the corporate economy; during war the political economy tends to become more unified, and moreover, political legitimations of the most unquestionable sort– national security itself– are gained for corporate activities.

C. Wright Mills
The Power Elite, 1956

radicaldemocracy.net

Take the red pill.

It was, of course, the astounding success of propaganda during the war that opened the eyes of the intelligent few in all departments of life to the possibilities of regimenting the public mind.

Edward Bernays, CPI
"The Father of Public Relations"
Propaganda, 1928

radicaldemocracy.net

Propaganda
is to democracy
what
violence is to
dictatorship.

Noam
Chomsky

#radicaldemocracy

“How We Sold America!”

In 1917, the **Committee for Public Information** formed to influence American public opinion to support U.S. participation in World War I.

Combining new psychological insight with radio and wireless communication technology, the CPI found they could sway the public by ‘putting pictures in people’s heads’, creating opinions about places or events of which the public had no personal experience.

In this way, they were able to “engineer consent” for the war policies and actions of the government.

The “selling of America to the world,” as well as to domestic audiences, has become a central function of the media during times of peace as wells as war.

they’re putting pictures in your head.

#radicaldemocracy

#radicaldemocracy

If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.

Malcom X , 1964

The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of its ruling class.

Karl Marx and Freidrich Engels
The Communist Manifesto, 1848

radicaldemocracy.net

Cultural hegemony is the domination of a culturally diverse society by a ruling class who manipulate the culture so that their ruling-class worldview is accepted as the norm;

as a universally valid ideology that justifies the social, political, and economic *status quo* as natural, inevitable, and beneficial for everyone, rather than as artificial social constructs that benefit only the ruling class.

Accepting such an ideology prevents a person from perceiving the true nature of their social/economic situation, and is known as false consciousness.

#radicaldemocracy

A sudden understanding of one's true position and role in society is sometimes called

"smashing false consciousness."

it's also known as waking the fuck up.

#getwoke
#staywoke

radicaldemocracy.net

THE WANAMAKER BUILDING

TPP

Climate catastrophe

N
to *both*
parties
of war,
racism &
capitalism

Moorehead-Lilly '16
WORKERS WORLD PARTY.ORG

Social order is a human product, or more precisely, an ongoing human production.

The Social Construction of Reality
Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann

#radicaldemocracy

If we think in our present way, we will create the kind of world that we have created.

If we think in another way, we might create a different world, and different people as well.

David Bohm
quantum physicist
communist
On Creativity
1996

radicaldemocracy.net

radicaldemocracy.net

WE DEMAND SEPARATION OF CORPORATIONS AND STATE

You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world.

And you have to do it all the time.

Angela Davis
Revolutionary

radicaldemocracy.net

I think one of the disservices done by Marxists of the late ‘60s and early ‘70s is that they froze the concept of revolution into something that looked like the revolution in China and Russia, or Cuba.

And so that’s what the word “revolution” means: that kind of sudden, sharp, total change in both government and economic systems. I think we need a broader definition of what is revolutionary.

What Occupy did with the 1% and the 99% was a conceptual revolution for this country, one that was long needed.

Bruce Hartford
civil rights/union/peace organizer/CORE/SCLC/N-VAC
Civil Rights Veterans dot org

#radicaldemocracy

“Organize, baby, organize.”
martin luther king jr, 1967
#endcorporaterule
#radicaldemocracy

They have waged class war on us. It is time for our class to fight back.

It's time for us to reach out to one another to fight for the right to organize, to fight corporations that would fight us, to demand that trade agreements protect workers and workers' rights, children, our environment, and our quality of life, and to fight for human dignity.

stewart acuff
national organizing director, afl/cio

radicaldemocracy.net

We want a participatory, socialist society — where people get their needs met, and get to develop their immense amount of human potential.

That means getting at the roots of the systems that keep us from that now, although there are a lot of things we can win along the way. It'd really be nice to have a social democracy to fight against instead of this collapsing neoliberal empire.

I think in the big picture we're talking about the dismantling of the really big and powerful systems that govern the institutions and values that in turn govern our lives: racism, capitalism and patriarchy.

yotam marom
occupy wall street
occupy sandy
wildfire project

radicaldemocracy.net

radicaldemocracy.net

revolution

Trump's got a dozen billionaires and half a dozen generals running the government. We called that fascism back in Mussolini times, when we were precise about language. But now that we're "post-factual," it's just called business.

Well, business with an army is fascism. America first, Israel first, whoever first... it's the same thing. It's fascism.

alan haber
organizer/activist
founder, students for
a democratic society

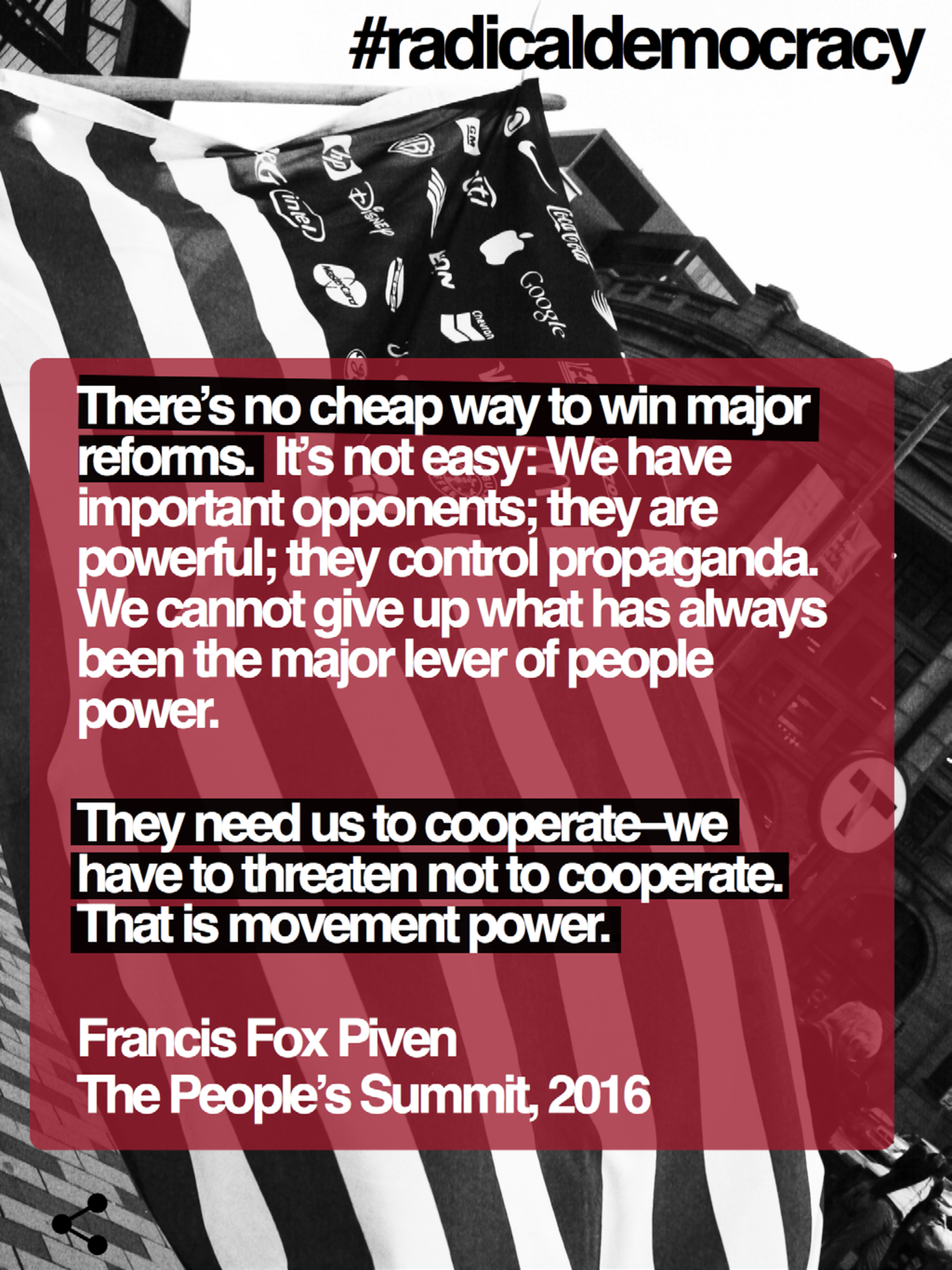
radicaldemocracy.net

Being oppressed means the absence of choices.

bell hooks
author/feminist/activist

radicaldemocracy.net

#radicaldemocracy



There's no cheap way to win major reforms. It's not easy: We have important opponents; they are powerful; they control propaganda. We cannot give up what has always been the major lever of people power.

They need us to cooperate–we have to threaten not to cooperate. That is movement power.

Francis Fox Piven
The People's Summit, 2016

Free your mind
and your ass
will follow.

Funkadelic
1970

#radicaldemocracy

When people refuse their cooperation, withhold their help, and persist in their disobedience and defiance, they are denying their opponents the basic human assistance and cooperation which any government or hierarchical system requires.

If people do this in sufficient numbers for long enough, that government or hierarchical system will no longer have power.

This is the basic political assumption of nonviolent action.

Gene Sharp
How Nonviolent Struggle Works

#radicaldemocracy

There is a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part; you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop. And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all.

Mario Savio
Free Speech Movement
1964

radicaldemocracy.net

"We, the people" remain the final arbiters of our democratic values. That's the bottom line, and you can be empowered by that. Not only empowered, but compelled to commit to a form of social change that you commit to over the longer term. Then you have to find away to associate yourself with others doing the same.

I think that activism is for me a natural expression of your responsibility as a citizen. And you can't depend on others being willing to get out there and take the risks and put themselves on the line. Because in the end, we are "We, the people."

bonnie raines
civil rights/peace activist
citizens commission to investigate the FBI
helped expose COINTELPRO

#radicaldemocracy

FEMINIST
AF
#radicaldemocracy

We are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression, and see as our particular task the development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking.

The synthesis of these oppressions creates the conditions of our lives.

As Black women we see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face.

The Combahee River Collective Statement, 1979

We need to bring to life a new form of politics that is the alternative on the left to both neoliberalism and this scary, racist nationalism.

That's what we need to do, and that has to be our focus, starting now.

Tobita Chow
People's Lobby
@People's Summit
2016

#radicaldemocracy

Enormous changes taking place in our society make it both possible and urgently necessary to advance the unfinished revolution of women toward true equality, **now.**

National Organization of Women's Statement of Purpose,
1966

#radicaldemocracy

Forget everything you've been taught.

Start by dreaming.

The Situationist Internationa

ituationist International, 1968

The Situationist I

#radicaldemocracy

It's up to us to reimagine the alternatives and not just protest against them and expect them to do better.

#radicaldemocracy

Grace Lee Boggs
Teacher/Revolutionary
1915-2015

there is no
absolutely
new thing
as an
image
as there is
a
message
too
contemporaneous
what is
happening

imagine
radicaldemocracy.net

A left movement requires more than idealism and passion:

Intellectually, it must have knowledge; it must have understanding and analysis; and it must have a social program and prescription which translate radical vision into concrete realities.

Radical Education Project
1966

radicaldemocracy.net

The Freedom Movement was expansive. It was about transforming the entire country.

It was not simply about acquiring civil rights within a framework that itself would not change.

Freedom is a Constant Struggle
2015

Angela Davis
Revolutionary

#radicaldemocracy

The human imagination stubbornly refuses to die.

And the moment any significant number of people simultaneously shake off the shackles that have been placed on their collective imagination, even our most deeply inculcated assumptions about what is and is not politically possible have been known to crumble overnight.

David Graeber,
The Democracy Project

#radicaldemocracy

We're not taught about the real immigration history in this country, just like we're not taught about the real slavery that happened here, the fights, the civil rights movement. Not just Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, but Miss Ella Baker, Malcom X, Marcus Garvey.

Sofia Campos

Wildfire Project
United We Dream
Freedom Side Network
IDEAS@UCLA

radicaldemocracy.net

#radicaldemocracy

Nobody's free until everybody's free.

Fannie Lou Hamer
civil rights leader
Mississippi Freedom
Democratic Party

up against the wall mother-fucker

#radicaldemocracy

In moments like this — when **the old system is crumbling and a new one is not yet in** sight — progressive activists and organizers can change the course of history. But to succeed, we'll have to change our perspective and start thinking in ways that are unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable.

We must set a bold agenda for a radically more progressive future, or we will end up in a world even less humane than the one we already have.

The Movement We Need:
Think Strategically, Act Strategically
The People's Lobbby USA, 2014

#radicaldemocracy

When special interests (say, corporations) control most of a society's sources of information, it's easy to frame public discourse in a way that benefits the owners—giving attention to stories and voices that advance their agenda, and ignoring or discrediting those that do not.

When the same corporations also control our elected officials, a seamless official version of reality can be presented as inevitable, unchangeable and just.

Any challenges or disruptions to the established order are ignored or marginalized. If problems become too big to ignore, leaders and official media agree that changes are always addressed through incremental reform to existing systems and institutions, never by replacing them.

#radicaldemocracy

Movements are large groups of people organizing outside of establishment systems and institutions, usually to right a moral wrong that the status quo refuses to acknowledge or address.

#radicaldemocracy

Let's tell the world— we're going to have a revolution!

RoseAnn DeMoro
Executive Director of
National Nurses United
People's Summit, 2016

radicaldemocracy.net

The greatest lie told to the American people today is that we really have no power to change things, that the most we can do is vote for the lesser evil and keep our chin up.

Yet history teaches the opposite is true.

We have vastly more power than our political parties or the mainstream media would have us believe.

Michelle Alexander, author,
The New Jim Crow

#radicaldemocracy

WAKE
UP

Stopping the climate crisis is impossible to wrap your head around, because stopping it is impossible.

But navigating the climate crisis to a place of stability and the new way of life it will demand — that's not only easy for me to imagine, it's easy to get excited about envisioning what it means.

Joshua Kahn Russel
350.org, Ruckus Society, Wildfire Project

“Frontline communities” are the peoples living directly alongside fossil-fuel pollution and extraction—overwhelmingly Indigenous Peoples, Black, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander peoples in working class, poor, and peasant communities in the US and around the world. In climate disruption and extreme weather events, we are hit first and worst.

We are Mother Earth’s red line. We don’t have the luxury of settling for industry or politicians’ hype or half measures. We know it takes roots to weather the storm and that’s why we are building a people’s climate movement rooted in our communities.

We are the frontlines of the solution: keeping fossil fuels in the ground and transforming the economy with innovative, community-led solutions.

We Are Mother Earth’s Red Line
Grass Roots Global Justice Alliance
2016

#radicaldemocracy

radical change is systemic change.

If you don't change the system you cannot change the results it produces.

radicaldemocracy.net

Voting could change anything they wouldn't let us do it. ~MARK TWAIN
ATLANTISADAPT
DEFENDING OUR FREEDOM
#radicaldemocracy

TOWARD
A FEMALE LIBERATION MOVEMENT
by
Beverly Jones and Judith Brown

do-it-yourself destiny

or, how to transform yourself with a curling iron

But, there are two parts of your body you've completely neglected. And there they stand, wrapped in dry, rough skin. Your two ugly feet.

The Ring Cycle
Total Eclipse

HOW TO TELL THE WORLD WHO'S MASTER!

Instant Sham-poo: it could save you 200 hours a year!

ATTACHMENT for treatment by one person on another (a must for hard to reach areas).....$2.50

with gentle Insertion Guides (No tubes!)

Efficiency experts: Women protesters dispense food in chow line

Sun, wind and water make your hair as dry and brittle as straw. Pretty soon you have split ends, and no shine. So do you have to stay inside or / hide under a hat?

Another Time, Another Face

Authorities were afraid Thomas would disrupt the jail. Inside the hall, prisoners tore up their cells for three days, after Mrs. Thomas was put in solitary confinement and sprayed repeatedly with MACE. It ran down the walls and lay in pools on the floor.

One black woman reacted against this recently by sending in a false fire alarm, then waiting for the police to arrive. "I just wanted you to know, you bastards, who's been turning in these alarms," she said, and walked away.

the beauty life:

.even if you use only part of your time. You can train at home without interrupting your regular duties.

No wonder millions of women in 106 countries have used over 20 billions of them.

35¢

1968

Gainesville, Fla.

#radicaldemocracy

Social movements are collective actions in which the populace is alerted, educated, and mobilized, over years and decades, to challenge the powerholders and the whole society to redress social problems or grievances and restore critical social values.

By involving the populace directly in the political process, social movements also foster the concept of government of, by, and for the people. The power of movements is directly proportional to the forcefulness with which the grassroots exert their discontent and demand change.

The central issue of social movements, therefore, is the struggle between the movement and the powerholders to win the hearts (sympathies), minds (public opinion), and active support of the great majority of the populace, which ultimately holds the power to either preserve the status quo or create change.

The Movement Action Plan
Bill Moyer/Movement for a New Society/1987

We are deeply concerned with the unprecedented destruction of our Mother Earth: the contamination of our air, waters, and soil; the atrocities of war; the global scourge of poverty; the threat of nuclear weapons and waste; the prevailing culture of materialsim, the epidemics that threaten the health of the earth's peoples; the exploitation of indigenous medicines; and the destruction of indigenous ways of life.

International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers
2004

radicaldemocracy.net

MOVEMENT

NOVEMBER, 1968 VOL. 4, NO. 10

20¢

COLUMBIA
WALLACE
RUBIN
CUBA

THE MOVEMENT PRESS
55 COLTON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA.
94103

BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Francisco, Calif.
Permit No. 5820

Never be deceived that the rich will let you vote away their wealth.

Lucy Parson
Labor Organizer
Radical Socialist
Anarchist

radicaldemocracy.net

Once social change begins it cannot be reversed.

You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You can not humiliate the person who feels pride.

You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid any more.

Cesar Chavez
Labor/Civil Rights Movements
United FarmWorkers Union

radicaldemocracy.net

We believe that Women's Rights are Human Rights and Human Rights are Women's Rights.

We must create a society in which women - including Black women, Native women, poor women, immigrant women, disabled women, Muslim women, lesbian queer and trans women - are free and able to care for and nurture their families, however they are formed, in safe and healthy environments free from structural impediments.

Unity Principles
Women's March on
Washington, 2017

#radicaldemocracy

The '60s movements stumbled to an end largely because we'd won the major reforms that were demanded:

the 1964 and 1965 civil and voting rights laws, the end of the draft and the Vietnam War, passage of the War Powers Resolution and the Freedom of Information Act, Nixon's environmental laws, amnesty for war resisters, two presidents forced from office, the 18-year-old vote, union recognition of public employees and farmworkers, disability rights, the decline of censorship, the emergence of gays and lesbians from a shadow existence...

Perhaps never in US history had so many changes occurred in so short a time, all driven by the vibrancy of participatory democracy.

Tom Hayden/
PHS 60th Anniversary
Participatory Democracy: From the Port Huron Statement to Occupy Wall Street

#radicaldemocracy

come let us build a new world together

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE 8½ RAYMOND STREET, N.W. ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA

Lincoln Lithograph Company

We took the social networks, we took the streets and We took the squares. However, we found that change was being blocked from above by the institutions. We couldn't allow this.

So, we decided that the moment had arrived to take back the institutions and put them at the service of the common good.

How to Win Back the City Guide
Barcelona En Comú, 2016

#radicaldemocracy

When people learn that they can change things by their own work, they learn self-reliance.

Discovering that they have untapped power has revolutionary implications.

George Lakey/
Movement for a New Society
Strategy for a Living Revolution,
1973

#radicaldemocracy

I think there's a generation gap in the Movement, so it's real important that we have inter-generational spaces. There's so much we could learn, and so many ways to innovate from what we've already learned about Movement history.

What we're really fighting for is to be in real community with each other, and have real relationships with each other. And I've been able to feel that and experience that in the Movement.

That's what I fight for every day.

jonel edwards/dream defenders
movement for black lives

#radicaldemocracy

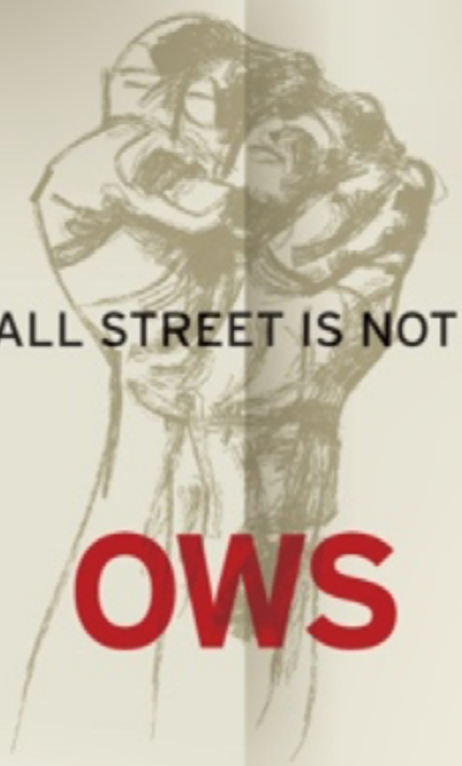
LOVE
{is a}
REVOLUTION

To ask a politician to lead us is to ask the tail of a dog to lead the dog.

buckminster fuller
1895-1983

radicaldemocracy.net

OCCUPY



OCCUPY WALL STREET IS NOT GOING AWAY.

OWS

MICHAEL THOMPSON (FREESTYLEE: ARTIST WITHOUT BORDERS) 2011

As long as politics is the shadow cast on society by big business, the attenuation of the shadow will not change the substance.

John Dewey
philosopher/educator
1859-1952

#radicaldemocracy

Often the missing element in revolution isn't critique: it's confidence, it's agency. It's a sense that if we take an action we change the world.

And when enough of us believe that, and take that collective action in the same direction, indeed we do change the world.

Bill Ayers
professor of education, retired/University of Chicago/SDS/co-founder, Weather Underground

#radicaldemocracy

ACTION

ART BY DIGNIDADREBELDE.COM

The times, the politics have called us to act. These are dark times, they're disruptive times, and I have an obligation to listen to the call to act.

To speak with love, with truth. To speak to power with love. We don't hear enough of it in the culture, we don't hear enough of it in the air, we don't feel enough of it.

If I can play a small part in helping to instill love into the conversation, into the politics, then it's been a good day.

David Kyuman Kim

Love-Driven Politics Collective

#radicaldemocracy

Upon suffering beyond suffering; the Red Nation shall rise again and it shall be a blessing for a sick world. A world filled with broken promises, selfishness and separations.

A world longing for light again. I see a time of seven generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again. In that day there will be those among the Lakota who will carry knowledge and understanding of unity among all living things, and the young white ones will come to those of my people and ask for this wisdom.

I salute the light within your eyes where the whole universe dwells. For when you are at that center within you and I am that place within me, we shall be as one.

Crazy Horse, Lakota Warrior and Leader 1842-1877

#radicaldemocracy

If you want to be sure you never contribute to war, genocide, or oppression, the first step is to stop following orders.

To Change Everything:
an anarchist appeal

#radicaldemocracy

This is not just about standing up on this one issue. This is about Native people, in Indian country, but also about Americans in Flint, Michigan. It's about water for everyone.

Water is life. It's not just rhetoric. All of life is born in water, in the womb of the Mother.

The linear age of man is over. It's incumbent upon women and the circular motion that is going to prevail.

Phyllis Young
Former councilwoman and Elder,
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Organizer, Seven Council Fires Camp

#waterislife
#standingrock
#radicaldemocracy

For years I labored with the idea of reforming the existing institutions of the society, a little change here, a little change there.

Now I feel quite differently.

I think you've got to have a reconstruction of the entire society, a revolution of values.

MLK
1967

radicaldemocracy.net

This collective material residue of the struggle as it has unfolded, when recapitulated from the perspective of victory, will be the material of our history.

Alan Haber
Students for a Democratic Society

#radicaldemocracy

INTERVIEWS

Alan Haber/Students for a Democratic Society/Megiddo Peace Project

Nabil Hassein/Millions March/ M4BL

Maria Svart/Nat'l Director Democratic Socialists of America

Jonel Edwards/Dream Defenders/M4BL

Bob Moses/Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee/Algebra Project

Tom Hayden/SDS /Peace Activist/CA State Rep

Winnie Wong/Occupy Wall St/ People4Bernie Sanders

INTERVIEWS con't

Dominique Scott/United Students Against Sweatshops/M4BL

Bill Ayers/SDS/Weather Underground/ Education Reform

Bruce Hartford/Congress of Racial Equality/ SDS/SCLC/Labor/CRMVet.org

Joshua Kahn Russell/350.org/Ruckus Society/Wildfire Project/Bay Area Solidarity Action Team

Bonnie Raines/Civil Rights&Peace Activist/ Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI

Moumita Ahmed/ Millennials for Bernie/Revolution

INTERVIEWS con't

Yotam Moram/Occupy Wall Street/ Wildfire Project

Sofia Campos/Wildfire Project/ United We Dream/IDEAS

John Raines/Freedom Rider/Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI

David Ian Robin/ Millennials for Revolution

WE WANT
JOBS FOOD
FENCE SHELTER

DOCUMENTS

The Port Huron Statement
Students for a Democratic Society, 1962

A Vision for Black Lives, 2016

Declaration of the Occupation of New York City
Occupy Wall Street, 2011

Manifesto for Change: The Long Walk II
Native American Movement, 1986

The Radical Education Project, SDS, 1965

What We Want/What We Believe
Black Panther Party 10 Point Program and Platform, 1966

The Women's March on Washington Guiding Vision and Definition of Principles, 2017

more

DOCUMENTS

Statement of Purpose, National Organization for Women, 1966

The Movement We Need, The People's Lobby, 2014

Action Strategy Guide, The Ruckus Society

Prairie Fire, 1974
The Weather Underground

Win the City Guide, Barcelona En Comu, 2015

How Nonviolent Struggle Works, 2013, Gene Sharp

We Are Mother Earth's Red Line, Climate Justice Movement, 2016

more

DOCUMENTS

Toward a Female Liberation Movement, 1968
Beverly Jones & Judith Brown

Call-Out to People of Color, Occupy Wall Street, 2011

Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda, 2016

The Movement Action Plan,
Movement for a New Society, 1995

more

DOCUMENTS

Toward a Female Liberation Movement, 1968
Beverly Jones & Judith Brown

Call-Out to People of Color, Occupy Wall Street, 2011

Indivisible: A Practical Guide for Resisting the Trump Agenda, 2016

The Movement Action Plan,
Movement for a New Society, 1995